

Importation of Pets into the United States

Regulations related to importing animals, including pets, into the U.S. are promulgated by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). For comprehensive information on bringing a pet into the U.S., visit: <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dq/animal.htm> A list of frequently asked questions on bringing animals into the U.S. can be found here: http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dq/faq_animal_importation.htm

There are no restrictions on the entry of a cat or dog which is in good health into the United States directly from the United Kingdom. No inoculations are required and no quarantine period is necessary. The animal will, however, be examined by a quarantine officer at the port of arrival for evidence of infectious diseases that can be transmitted to humans.

Animals imported from other countries which are not rabies free require vaccinations. The United Kingdom has not reported any indigenous cases of rabies; pets traveling to the U.S. from the UK do not require rabies vaccinations. There is no rabies vaccination requirement for cats.

The airline or shipping company transporting the animal to the United States may require a certificate from a veterinary officer to the effect that the animal is in good health and free from any contagious disease. It is advisable to obtain such a certificate not more than ten days prior to the shipment of the animal.

Once in the U.S., pet owners should consult a local veterinary officer about any inoculations that are required by individual State law.